

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A method of manufacturing molded materials of a thermosetting resin composition in a method of granulating a molding material of the thermosetting resin composition, characterized in that a sheet producing step for transferring the molding material in a molten state to a subsequent stage while processing the same material into a sheet type material of a predetermined thickness, a first processing step for cutting the sheet type material, which has thus been transferred to a stage for carrying out this step, in parallel with the transfer direction thereof to a predetermined width, and thereby obtaining laterally arranged rows of processed bodies of elongated string-like materials, a step of cutting the processed body, which is obtained in the first processing step, to a predetermined length with respect to the transfer direction, a transfer direction changing step for transferring the processed body, which has been subjected to the cutting step, to a subsequent stage by changing the transfer direction of the processed body at 90 degrees with respect to the longitudinal processed body cutting line, and a second processing step for cutting the processed body, the transfer direction of which has been changed, in parallel with the processed body transferring direction to a predetermined width, and thereby obtaining granulated materials are carried out in order.

Claim 2 (Original): A method of manufacturing molded materials of a thermosetting resin composition according to Claim 1, wherein a second processing step for making a multiplicity of slits in the transfer-direction-changed processed body after the transfer direction changing step has been carried out, in parallel with the transfer direction of the processed body to a predetermined width, and thereby obtaining a processed body of longitudinally arranged rows of elongated string-like materials having longitudinal slits of a

predetermined width, and a step of applying an external force to the processed body of longitudinally arranged rows of elongated string-like materials obtained in the second processing step, and thereby obtaining granulated materials are carried out in order.

Claim 3 (Original): A method of manufacturing molded materials of a thermosetting resin composition in a method of granulating a molding material of the thermosetting resin composition, characterized in that a sheet producing step for transferring the molding material in a molten state to a subsequent stage while processing the same material into a sheet type material of a predetermined thickness, a first processing step for making a multiplicity of slits in the sheet type material, which has been transferred to a stage for carrying out this step, in parallel with the transfer direction to a predetermined width, and thereby obtaining a sheet type processed body in which a multiplicity of longitudinal slits are formed, a step of cutting the sheet type processed body, which has been obtained in the first processing step, to a predetermined length with respect to the transfer direction, a transfer direction changing step for transferring the processed body, which have been subjected to the cutting step, to a subsequent stage by changing the transfer direction of the processed bodies at 90 degrees with respect to the longitudinal processed body cutting line, a second processing step for cutting the processed body, the transfer direction of which has been changed, in parallel with the processed body transferring direction to a predetermined width, and thereby obtaining a processed body of laterally arranged rows of elongated string-like materials in which a multiplicity of lateral slits are formed in a longitudinally spaced manner, and a step of applying an external force to the processed body of laterally arranged rows of elongated string-like materials, which have been obtained in the second processing step, and thereby obtaining granulated materials are carried out in order.

Claim 4 (Original): A method of manufacturing molded materials of a thermosetting resin composition according to Claim 3, wherein a second step of making a multiplicity of slits after the execution of the transfer direction changing step in the processed body, the transfer direction of which has been changed, in parallel with the transfer direction to a predetermined width, and thereby obtaining a sheet type processed body having generally checker-patterned slits, and a step of applying an external force to the sheet type processed body obtained in the second processing step, and thereby obtaining granulated materials are carried out in order.

Claim 5 (Original): A method of manufacturing molded materials of a thermosetting resin composition according to Claim 1, wherein the sheet producing step is carried out by rolling the molding material in a molten state the temperature of which is regulated to a temperature of 70 to 130°C with rolling rolls, obtaining a sheet type material of 70 to 130°C, and transferring the sheet type material to a subsequent stage.

Claim 6 (Original): A method of manufacturing molded materials of a thermosetting resin composition according to Claim 1, wherein the thermosetting resin is a phenol resin, an epoxy resin, a polyimide resin or a polyester resin.

Claim 7 (Original): A method of manufacturing molded materials of a thermosetting resin composition according to Claim 1, wherein the granulated materials have a rectangular cross section 0.5 to 4 mm square.

Claims 8 – 11 (Canceled)